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News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Hibbing man indicted for failing to register as a sex offender

A 61-year-old Hibbing man was indicted yesterday in federal court under the Adam Walsh Child Protection and Safety Act of 2006. Dennis Edward Pietrantonio was charged June 2 in Minneapolis with one count of failing to register as a sex offender.

Pietrantonio's indictment alleges that from Sept. 14, 2007, to April 15, 2008, he traveled in interstate commerce and knowingly failed to update his sex offender registration.

The Act makes it a federal felony for convicted sex offenders to fail to register with their local authorities. It is named after Adam Walsh, the son of John Walsh, the host of the television program "America's Most Wanted." Adam Walsh was abducted from a shopping mall in 1981 and found murdered 16 days later. His killer has never been found.

According to a United States Marshals Service affidavit, Pietrantonio was convicted in St. Louis County for solicitation of children engaging in sexual conduct and indecent exposure in 2004 and served 18 months in prison. On Jan. 15, 2008, the Marshals Service checked for Pietrantonio's name on the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension (BCA) Predatory Offender Registry.

According to the BCA, Pietrantonio had not returned his annual verification letter, as required by law. BCA records showed that on Aug. 1, 2007, he had registered his address as homeless in Hibbing. However, Hibbing Police could not locate Pietrantonio.

After searching in Las Vegas, Nev., the Marshals Service found Pietrantonio in Brighton, Mass., on April 15 and arrested him.

If convicted, Pietrantonio faces a potential maximum penalty of 10 years in prison. All sentences are determined by a federal district court judge. This case is the result of an investigation by the U.S. Marshals Service, the BCA and the Hibbing Police Department, and is being prosecuted by Assistant U.S. Attorney Kimberly A. Svendsen.

An indictment is a determination by a grand jury that there is probable cause to believe that offenses have been committed by the defendant. The defendant, of course, is presumed innocent until he or she pleads guilty or is proven guilty at trial.